

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND SUPPORTING THE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FIBER OR WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that modern advanced broadband telecommunications services are critical to the needs of the citizens of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, advanced fiber transport facilities are necessary for the provision of such services; and

WHEREAS, the communications facilities currently in place in rural areas are vital to the connectivity and communications of citizens in rural Idaho with the outside world; and

WHEREAS, more aggressive broadband is necessary for robust economic development and the current environment is a deterrent to growth; and

WHEREAS, the current communications facilities are inadequate or nonexistent in many areas of rural Idaho and can hamper public safety along with economic development; and

WHEREAS, the expedited construction of new modern fiber or wireless communications facilities is in the best interests of the citizens of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the representatives of numerous affected local communities, as well as the Governor of the state of Idaho, strongly support such efforts and it would be in the public interest if the state of Idaho could serve as an aggregator among public and private interests to increase broadband opportunity in this state; and

WHEREAS, other states have made significant progress in forming successful public-private partnerships to bring broadband telecommunications to their remote or rural areas with programs like Connect Kentucky or Connect Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that it is in the public interest to adopt this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that we strongly support the state of Idaho in creating a business climate to expedite the construction and installation of broadband throughout the state of Idaho.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state of Idaho, other government agencies and broadband providers are requested to provide such support as is available to this endeavor including, expedited review and processing of any needed permits and licenses and to focus resources and coordinate with each other and commit to changing the broadband environment in this state within the next two years.